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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,504	02/22/2002	Artur Schworer	MFA-14502/04	9973
25006	7590	02/11/2004	EXAMINER	
CHIN SHUE, ALVIN C				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3634		DATE MAILED: 02/11/2004		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/081,504	SCHWORER, ARTUR	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Alvin C. Chin-Shue	3634	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 December 2003.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) Claim(s) 2-20,22 and 23 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 2-6,9-20,22 and 23 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 9, is the hook a different element from the holding means as suggested? In claim 15, the phrase “the longitudinal axis of symmetry” lacks antecedent basis.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 23,4,5,9-15,17-20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over German pat. '566 to Miller in view of Waters. Miller shows the claimed scaffold with the exception of the end hooks. Waters shows end hooks attached to recessed end portion of a platform for anchoring the end portion of the platform to horizontal carriers that are parallel to and adjacent to the end portion of the platform. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the end portion of the platform of Miller to comprise end hooks for anchoring the end portion of the platform to his

parallel adjacent horizontal carriers. The claimed method would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the modified scaffold to Miller.

Claims 23,2-6,9-15,17-20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over German pat. '566 to Miller in view of Waters and Erckhoff. Miller shows the claimed scaffold with the exception of the end hooks and the plurality of guide stops. Waters shows end hooks attached to recessed end portion of a platform for anchoring the end portion of the platform to horizontal carriers that are parallel to and adjacent to the end portion of the platform. Erckhoff at 71 shows a plurality of hook-like guide stops on side portions of a platform for engaging over a supporting frame side rails. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the end portion of the platform of Miller to comprise end hooks for anchoring the end portion of the platform to his parallel adjacent horizontal carriers and to comprise plural hooks, in lieu of his single hook member at 11, to enable intermittent side support of the side of his platform to his side horizontal carriers. The claimed method would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the modified scaffold to Miller.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Miller and Waters, or Miller, Waters, and Erckhoff, as applied to claim 4

above, and further in view of Schworer. Schworer shows a rose connector for attaching horizontal carriers. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the vertical members of Miller to comprise rose connectors for attaching horizontal carriers to his vertical members.

Claims 7 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin C. Chin-Shue whose telephone number is 703-308-2475. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 703-308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Alvin C. Chin-Shue  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3634

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